

May 16, 2000

Scott Whitney, Compliance Officer
Drinking Water Program
Division of Health Engineering
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-11

RE: Department of Human Services Request for
Consultation Regarding Transport of Bulk Water by
Great Spring Waters of America
Docket No 2000-323

Dear Mr. Whitney:

On April 7, 2000, you requested Commission review of the application of Great Spring Waters of America for renewal of its authorization, pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §2660-A(3), to transport water from Poland Spring Annex, also called "Garden Spring," for commercial purposes. The spring is located on Ricker Hill in the town of Poland. That statute requires that your office consult with the PUC and other agencies before authorizing commercial transport of water beyond the municipality in which it occurs naturally. This letter constitutes the PUC's assessment of whether Great Spring Waters of America's proposal would "constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare" in regard to its effect on any public water utility.

Our Staff reviewed the Great Spring Waters of America proposal in order to determine whether the proposed withdrawal of water would have any adverse effect on the public water utilities in the area. The Auburn, Gray, and Oxford Water Districts were contacted along with the Town of Mechanic Falls Water Department. The review indicates that the proposed withdrawals should not adversely affect these water utilities' water sources or watersheds.

It is our opinion that transport of water from Poland Spring Annex, as proposed by Great Spring Waters of America, will not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The public utility component of the waiver process should be reviewed, to ensure circumstances have not changed, each time the authorization is renewed.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have questions regarding the public water utility impact of the Great Spring Waters of America application.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

cc: Raymond Hammond
Dana Lee - Mechanic Falls Water Dept.
David MacDonald - Oxford Water District
Gordon Johnson - Auburn Water District
James Foster - Gray Water District